

Château Giscours 2009

CSPC# 744970

750mlx12

12.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

70% Cabernet Sauvignon, 25% Merlot, 3% Cabernet Franc, 2% Petit Verdot

Negociant

Ginestet

Appellation

Margaux

General Info

The first written reference to the domain of Giscours, a deed confirming the sale of the Estate for 1,000 Pounds, dates from 1330 and refers to a fortified keep. Records of Giscours' vineyards go back to 1552. Giscours early reputation for fine wine became increasingly apparent as time went on. A century later, Giscours charmed the palate of the "Roi Soleil" Louis the 14th, who is said to have had a particular inclination for the wine. Subsequent owners came and went. The most noteworthy was the Count de Pescatore, a leading Parisian banker. In 1847, he laid the cornerstone of the remarkable chateau that still exists today. It was built in order to receive Empress Eugénie in the Renaissance style to which she was accustomed. 1855 was another landmark year, in which the wine of Château Giscours was officially recognised as a 3rd growth Margaux. Then, the domain had a number of other owners and the estate was purchased by Nicolas Tari after the Second World War. He undertook a modernisation programme. In 1995, the Société Anonyme d'Exploitation was acquired by Eric Albada Jelgersma. He immediately began investing in vineyard and cellar renovation. He also put together a new winemaking team in the spirit of generations of winegrowers who made this Estate the famous great growth it is today.

Vineyards

The vineyards at Giscours are spread over four gravel outcrops in Margaux, with a poor quality, slightly sandy, pebbly soil. The estate nears 400 hectares in size, of which 85 hectares are designated vineyards, although at present there are just over 80 hectares planted up. The vines are planted at up to 10 000 vines/ha, a high-density arrangement, and include a significant number of old vines; 25% are over 40 years of age. They are predominantly Cabernet Sauvignon (60%) and Merlot (32%), the remainder Cabernet Franc (5%) and Petit Verdot (3%).

Maturation

Traditional fermentation / the wine is left on the skins for a long time at a relatively high temperature. The wine is put into barrel after the malolactic fermentation. Traditional ageing in new oak barrels (50 %) during 15 to 18 months

Tasting Notes

Serious improvements are taking place here (and also at sister property du Tertre) under the Dutch manager, Alexander Van Beek. Those who remember the 1970 Giscours will know that this Chateau has the ability to make really great wine. This year it is 53% Cabernet Sauvignon, 40% Merlot and 7% Cabernet Franc. Dense, concentrated. A big, bold masculine structure, ripe tannins and a rich, voluptuous mid-palate. Generous, powerful dark cassis fruit with beautiful balance. While 2000, 2003 and 2005 were all outstanding, this is probably the best Giscours yet.

Production

21,665 cases made

Cellaring

Drink 2014-2029

93 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2012

92-95 points - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2010

94 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #199 - February 2012

91-93* points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #188- April 2010

91 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - January 2012

91-93 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - May 2010

93-94 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2011

94 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - February 1, 2012

94-96 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - September 8, 2010

90-92 points - Ian D'Agata, ST's International Wine Cellar - May/June 2010

16 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 20, 2010

17.5-18.5+ points - Chris Kissack, The Wine Doctor - March 2010



Scores/Awards **18 points/4 stars** - Stephen Spurrier, Decanter.com - April 2010

94 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2010

Reviews *"This is alluring, with lots of incense, warm espresso and roasted mesquite notes leading the way for a sleek core of mouthwatering black currant and blackberry fruit. The long finish lets the mesquite edge linger, with well-embedded grip. Rock-solid. Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot. Best from 2014 through 2029. Tasted twice, with consistent notes. 21,665 cases made."*

- JM, Wine Spectator

"Subtle and pretty on the nose, with blueberry, blackberry and hints of flowers. Full and very fine, showing a beautiful texture of polished tannins. Wonderfully long and balanced. 53 percent Cabernet Sauvignon, 7 percent Cabernet Franc, and the rest is Merlot. Score range: 92-95"

- JS, Wine Spectator

"The finest Giscours in my professional career (I said the same thing from barrel), this dense purple wine has a stunning nose of burning embers, charcoal, creme de cassis, new saddle leather and damp, forest floor notes. It is full-bodied, with exceptionally sweet, well-integrated tannins and a multi-dimensional, almost skyscraper-like mid-palate and finish. With its low acidity and remarkable substance and depth, this gorgeous wine should age beautifully for 20-30 years."

- RP, Wine Advocate

"This is the finest Giscours I have tasted in my professional career. Succulent and sexy with an inky/purple color, it offers sweet aromas of subtle barbecue smoke, graphite, blackberries, blueberries, and spring flowers. The tannins are remarkably sweet, substantial, and well-integrated, and the wine is full-bodied as well as voluptuously textured. It is a head-turning, exuberant, flashy effort that should drink well for 20-25 years. Bravo! (Tasted three times.)"

- RP, Wine Advocate

"Tasted at the Union de Grand Cru in London. The Giscours 2009 has a rounded, generous bouquet with dark berries, a touch of baked gingerbread and savoury fruit. There is a gourmand quality to this Margaux. The palate is medium bodied with a tannic entry, good substance but needing a little more flesh towards the finish. I would want to re-taste this after a year in bottle. Tasted October 2011."

- NM, Wine Journal

"Tasted at the chateau, at a negociant and at the Margaux UGC. The harvest began on 22nd September with the Merlots and finished on 13th October for some parcels of the Cabernet, a blend of 53% Cabernet Sauvignon, 7% Cabernet Franc and 40% Merlot using 50% new oak from seven suppliers. This is taut on the nose, very tight, introspective and slightly earthy. The palate is full-bodied with grainy tannins, deep broody dark berried fruits, touches of coca and a hint of cracked black pepper. Quite toasty towards the finish, moderate length, just a little attenuated towards the finish although the sample at the UGC was much more "strident", containing the chutzpah that it was missing before. Like the du Tertre, I think this will show better in a couple of months. The second sample at the negociant was a better sample with some pleasant coffee notes on the aftertaste. Difficult to discern at the moment but I remain optimistic. Tasted March 2010."

- NM, Wine Journal

"This wine grabs your attention right away with the impact, then gives you the finesse at the end. It is precise and pretty, with lovely fruit and clean long finish. This is elegant stuff. Barrel sample."

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"Dark and structured, this is a firm wine. It has a smoky wood character, powerful tannins over intensely ripe fruit. Acidity and sweetness balance to give a dense wine, powered with richness and destined to age for many years."

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"94-96 Barrel sample. Full of blackcurrant fruits, ripe and sweet tannins and forward fruit. The wine feels polished, ripe, smooth."

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

Reviews *“(53% cabernet sauvignon, 40% merlot, and 7% cabernet franc): Purple-ruby. Enticing aromas of cassis, violet, quinine and ink. Sweet, dense and suave, with noteworthy precision to its plum and cassis flavors. Finishes very smooth and long, with a persistent note of smoky plum. Lovely wine, with the ready-to-drink charm typical of the 2009, even if it's a little simple today. But this wine is beginning to close down and should keep splendidly, likely picking up further complexity.”*
- ID, International Wine Cellar

“Very dark and lustrous. Odd herbal note. Very sweet start on the palate. Rather drying tannins but some Margaux polish and not too hot until the very end. A little drying and exaggerated on the finish.”
- JR, JancisRobinson.com

“From this château that seems to have performed well in recent years, in 2009 we have Cabernet Sauvignon 55%, Merlot 40% and Cabernet Franc 5%. A rather glossy wine with a black-crimson hue and the aromas of pencil lead on the nose, with very smart and sweet fruit too. Textured, smoothly polished, creamy with ripe tannin and fresh, direct acidity. A very appealing wine with good back bone and delicious potential. Perhaps not very 'Margaux', but certainly quite 'Giscours'. From my 2009 Bordeaux primeur assessment. 17.5-18.5+/20 (March 2010)”
- CK, The Wine Doctor

“Fine black red, very expressive black fruits with the elegant lift from Cabernet, fine density of fruit, very good natural middle sweetness and lots of depth and vineyard character, a very good wine.”
- SS, Decanter.com

“A wine that continues the impressive progress made at Giscours over the last decade or so, this is on the rich side for a Margaux, but none the worse for that. Soft, rich and yet quite forward, with good concentration, well-integrated tannins, red and black fruits and an undertone of liquorice. Another wine that should be reasonably priced and will provide superb drinking in future. 15+ years.”
- TA, timatkin.com
